



Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

## The Value of Arizona GED Testing

**The GED Test makes it possible for qualified individuals to earn a high school credential so that they may pursue higher education, obtain a job or a job promotion, and achieve personal goals.**

**T**he General Educational Development (GED) Testing Program provides an opportunity for adults who have not graduated from high school to earn a **high school equivalency diploma by passing the GED Test**. The GED Test is over seven hours long and consists of five sub-tests:

- The Language Arts/Writing Test
- The Language Arts/Reading Test
- The Social Studies Test
- The Science Test
- The Mathematics Test

The high school equivalency diploma is the certification of foundation skills in the above five content areas.



*Student speaker at Central Arizona College's GED Graduation*

**T**he GED Test, revised in 2002, places great emphasis on workplace and higher education needs including:

- Inclusion of higher order thinking skills;
- Increased emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving;
- Incorporation of more business related material;
- Inclusion of higher level problem-solving skills in Mathematics;
- Incorporation of alternative format or open-ended questions in Mathematics;
- Usage of a scientific calculator in one part of the Mathematics test.

The GED Test is normed on graduating high school seniors; 42% of these seniors are unable to pass the GED Test.

### Facts About GED Testing

- **11,352 high school equivalency diplomas were issued in Arizona during program year 2004-2005.**
- **Over 25% of all high school diplomas issued in Arizona each year are earned through the GED Testing program.**
- **During program year 2004-2005, 6,662 16 to 22 years olds took the GED Test; over 78% passed the test and received their diploma.**
- **Earning a high school equivalency diploma allows the graduate to enroll in post-secondary education, obtain employment or advance in their current job, and model lifelong learning habits to members of their family, community and to co-workers and employers.**
- **GED graduates are admitted to the state community colleges just like traditional high school graduates.**
- **Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and The University of Arizona admit GED graduates who have scored at a specified level above the GED Test passing score.**
- **A high school equivalency diploma meets one of the criteria for federal financial aid, which is often the support needed for those who cannot afford the cost of a post-secondary program.**
- **An individual without a high school diploma will earn considerably less than someone with a high school equivalency diploma.**
- **There is no designated state funding for the administration of GED Testing in Arizona. The costs to administer the GED Testing Program are taken from the adult education allocation.**

Data provided by Arizona Department of Education,  
Division of Education Services and Resources

**[www.ade.az.gov/adult-ed](http://www.ade.az.gov/adult-ed)**

## GED Testing Changed the Lives of These Arizonans

- A young woman dropped out of high school as a teenager because of pregnancy. Her high school equivalency diploma gave her the opportunity to attend junior college and from there she went on to the university. Today she is an English teacher and an inspiration to her own students.
- A young man spent most of his life in and out of prison until he earned his GED. Now he owns a successful auto repair shop and is an employer himself.
- A grandmother came to this country 40 years ago as an orphan. She earned her high school equivalency diploma seven years ago, the same year her youngest son graduated from Harvard.
- A woman wanted and needed her GED, not only for her job, but also for herself. She had a medical condition that was exacerbated by stress and her doctor advised her not to go to class, to forget the GED. But she was determined. Although terrified, she went to class, worked hard, took the GED Test and passed. She wasn't finished. She volunteer-tutored other students, especially in math. Her doctor encouraged her to do this, because this activity had a positive impact on her health! She is now working as an aide with special needs children and is considering getting a degree in Special Education.
- A young Hispanic man worked on a dairy farm and supported his child and his mother. He took the GED Test (in English) in order to qualify for a better job and better pay. When his employers learned he was looking for another job, they called him in and made him manager and supervisor of their new cattle enterprise.
- A man in his early thirties wanted to become a corrections officer. He met all of the requirements except for the GED. After attending an adult education class for several weeks, he took the test and passed. He now has aspirations of studying for a degree in criminal justice.
- A stepmother and her daughter-in-law were studying to become Medical Assistants. A GED was required. One passed on the first try, the other on her second try. Both have completed their MA training and are now employed.



Crane Adult Education graduation and National Adult Education Honor Society ceremony

### Famous GED Recipients

**Wally Amos**, Creator of *Famous Amos Cookies*

**Walter Anderson**, Editor of *PARADE* Magazine

**Dr. Richard Carmona**, United States Surgeon General

**Bill Cosby**, Comedian

**Ben Nighthorse Campbell**, United States Senator

**Jim Florio**, New Jersey Governor

**Michael J. Fox**, Actor

**Waylon Jennings**, Country Singer

**Ruth Ann Minner**, Delaware State Senator

**John Michael Montgomery**, Country Singer

**Tommy Nunez**, NBA Referee

**Mary Lou Retton**, Olympic Gold Medalist

**Dave Thomas**, Founder of *Wendy's*



National Adult Education Honor Society "pinning ceremony"